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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. Mathieson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J. Fineron, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.)

for the years 1941 and 1942



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REPORTS

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the years 1941 and 1942.

In accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health, the Reports are again curtailed and include only summaries of the particulars relating to the work performed during the two years under review. Suitable arrangements have again been made to ensure the preservation of records not included in these Reports, but which may be required to keep such records continuous and complete.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1941.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1941—19'3

Still Births—

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births—19.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11'2

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
From other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	70'4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	66
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	250

Eight out of 14 deaths under one year were due to prematurity or congenital disease or malformation.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	13
,, Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	0

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1942.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1942—21·8

Still Births—

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—5·3

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11·3

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0
From other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	46·7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	39·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	153

Three out of 10 deaths under one year were due to prematurity or congenital disease or malformation.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	21
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is an analysis of notified cases of infectious disease under different age groups:—

1941

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para Typhoid Fever	Pneumonia	Polio-myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2— 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3— 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—35	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
35—45	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	1	...	1	1	1	...	5

1942

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid Fever	Pneumonia	Polio- myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Under 1	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	1
1— 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2— 3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3— 4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4— 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	11	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—35	1	7	...	9	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
45—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	20	19	2	10	...	...	...	1

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

1941			1942		
Under 5 years	...	139	Under 5 years	...	184
5—15 years	...	876	5—15 years	...	226

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during the years 1941 and 1942 are set out in the following tables :—

1941

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5—	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—	1	4	...	...	2	2	...	...
25—	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
35—	3	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
45—	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	8	7	2	1	8	2	1	...

1942

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	5	4	...	...	1	...	...	...

A. MATHIESON,
Medical Officer of Health.

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REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the years 1941 and 1942.

During the two years under review progress in sanitary work was again impeded by war conditions, and a considerable amount of time was devoted to the work of billeting.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CITY.

There has been no appreciable change in the services previously dealt with under this heading. Samples of drinking water are taken at frequent intervals for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, and the results continue to be highly satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table shows the number and nature of inspections made during the years 1941 and 1942 :—

	1941	1942
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	105	190
Inspections under the Housing Act	15	28
Inspections under the Shops Acts	25	85
Re-Inspections	280	301
Visits to Meat Shops	140	160
Visits to Markets	40	45
Visits to Cowsheds	50	62
Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops	44	60
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	20	32
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	14	25
Visits to Bakehouses and Factories	60	68
Smoke Observations	12	15
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	7	39

NOTICES.

Particulars regarding notices served are as follows :—

	1941	1942
Informal Notices served	35	48
Statutory Notices served	5	3
Informal Notices complied with	35	47
Statutory Notices complied with	5	3

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Arising out of smoke observations, representations were made to the owners of two installations and an improvement was effected in each case. In both instances difficulty was being experienced as a result of unsuitable fuel, the coal supplied being unsatisfactory for the methods employed in stoking.

HOUSING.

A number of investigations were made in regard to overcrowding and these visits resulted in a few serious cases being abated. Under existing conditions, however, it is not practicable to maintain continuous records as changes occur at frequent intervals.

At the end of 1942 sixty houses in respect of which Clearance Orders had been made before the war were still occupied. In some cases the need for re-housing is very urgent, though it must be realised that tenants cannot be displaced till new accommodation is available. The present position serves to emphasise the value of the work done in the five years before the onset of the war. During this period 205 houses were dealt with under Demolition Orders and in Clearance Areas. The houses demolished in the City since the beginning of the campaign for improved conditions are as follows :—

			Houses	Persons re-housed
Burton's Yard	...	...	6	22
Church Street	...	...	2	4
Greenhill	...	...	11	32
Rotten Row	...	...	15	58
Holme's Terrace	...	...	6	34
George Lane	...	...	12	44
Hayward's Yard	...	...	5	26
Fold Yard	...	...	5	14
Lyon's Yard	...	...	4	6
Winkley's Row	...	...	4	17
Baker's Lane	...	...	4	12
Beacon Street	...	...	2	8
Gaia Lane	...	...	9	22
Wait's Yard	...	...	3	9
Friary Cottage	...	...	1	—
Levett's Fields	...	...	5	11
Lombard Street	...	...	1	2
Cross-in-Hand Lane	...	...	2	5
Birmingham Road	...	...	1	4
Sandfields	...	...	1	6
Sandford Street	...	...	1	1
St. John Street	...	...	2	7
			102	344

In addition to the foregoing, 11 houses were closed on undertakings that they would not be used for human habitation, some were reconditioned and others are awaiting demolition.

The fact that 30 of the houses demolished were of the non-through type indicates that every effort was made to deal with obsolete houses in the early stages of the campaign. There are now very few houses of the non-through type in the City, but early action is desirable in respect of a considerable number of houses which are beyond repair.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The conditions under which milk is produced and distributed in the City continue to receive constant attention. The cowsheds are visited at frequent intervals, and intimations are sent to occupiers when contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order are discovered. During the year 1941 several complaints were received regarding souring of milk. In most cases this was found to be due to transport difficulties, and a substantial improvement was noticed during the following year. Samples of milk are collected at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination. Samples of pasteurised milk are subjected to the phosphatase test which is designed to determine whether or not the milk has been efficiently pasteurised. The results of these samples showed a considerable improvement towards the end of 1942. The results of the tests applied to the samples during the two years concerned were as follows :—

		1941			
Samples				Passed	Failed
9	Pasteurised ...	...	...	6	3
8	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4	4
1	Accredited ...	...	...	-	1
7	Undesignated	...	...	4	3
		1942			
Samples				Passed	Failed
15	Pasteurised ...	...	...	7	8
22	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	9	13
7	Undesignated	...	...	-	7

As there is no prescribed standard for undesignated milk, the results of the samples are based on the requirements applicable to accredited milk.

Meat Supply.

The meat now being sold in the City is received from the Government slaughter-house at Walsall. The difficulties associated with the early stages of the distribution scheme have been overcome, and very few complaints were received during 1941 and 1942.

Other Foods.

During the period covered by this report the following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed :—

439	tins of	Condensed Milk
62	„	Meat
19	„	Fish
5	„	Soup
24	„	Fruit
120	„	Vegetables
4	cases of	Brawn (100 lbs.)
77		Eggs
164	lbs. of	Sausage
80 $\frac{3}{4}$	„	Bacon
35	„	Fish
13	„	Butter
22 $\frac{1}{2}$	„	Cheese
12	„	Cooked Pork
5	„	Jam
1	„	Marmalade
22 $\frac{1}{4}$	„	Dates
25	„	Apricots

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES.

Arising out of inspections made at these premises, additional sanitary accommodation was provided at three factories, and one factory was provided with a piped supply of drinking water. At one factory the existing sanitary accommodation was replaced by more adequate facilities including wash basins and sinks.

BILLETING.

At the end of 1942 the number of persons officially billeted in the City was 213. This figure includes unaccompanied children, teachers, mothers with children, elderly people and nurses. In cases where the title to billeting had lapsed most of the refugees concerned remained in the City after billeting allowances were withdrawn. The number of persons who found their own accommodation has not been taken into account for this report.

The problems associated with billeting have been complex and difficult, and the task of maintaining the scheme has imposed a considerable amount of additional work on the Public Health Department. Most of the work has been in connection with administrative details which are not generally realised, and consequently the work involved has not been appreciated. There is good reason to believe that the problems encountered in reception areas were entirely different from those in towns where billeting was carried out to shelter people from damaged houses.

Records relating to billeting have been carefully preserved and a comprehensive report on the operation of the scheme in the City will doubtless be prepared when all evacuees are officially withdrawn from the reception areas.

JOHN FINERON,

Sanitary Inspector.
